

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

LaEscuelita Education Center, 1050 2nd Avenue, Workspace B-237
Oakland, CA 94606-2212
510.879.8199 w • 510.273.3235 f • 510.273.3474 TTY / TDD
www.ousd.k12.ca.us
e-mail: boe@ousd.k12.ca.us



OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Schools, Thriving Students

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2013

David Kakishiba, President, District 2
David.Kakishiba@ousd.k12.ca.us

Jumoke Hinton Hodge, Vice President, District 3
Jumoke.Hodge@ousd.k12.ca.us

Jody London, District 1
Jody.London@ousd.k12.ca.us

[**VACANT**], District 4
]@ousd.k12.ca.us

Roseann Torres, District 5
Roseann.Torres@ousd.k12.ca.us

Christopher Dobbins, District 6
Christopher.Dobbins@ousd.k12.ca.us

James Harris, District 7
James.Harris@ousd.k12.ca.us

STAFF

Jacqueline Minor
General Counsel
Jacqueline.Minor@ousd.k12.ca.us

Tony Smith, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Tony.Smith@ousd.k12.ca.us

Edgar Rakestraw, Jr.
Secretary & Executive Officer, Board of Education
Edgar.Rakestraw@ousd.k12.ca.us

Student Directors' Report

June 12, 2013

On May 21st All City Council held the 4th Annual Youth Action Summit at the First Unitarian Church. Over 100 students from different high schools from all over Oakland participated alongside over a dozen of our administrators, district leaders and community partners. Students came out and shared their thoughts and ideas on safety, quality teaching, and student support. Our adult allies came to listen to the voices of young people and to share their commitments to help eliminate the barriers of Making A-G Real, including how to strengthen partnerships with youth. The following information was gathered during the Youth Summit.

These were the most common suggestions and ideas heard from Oakland youth during the group discussions. Oakland youth shared on the topic of safety that they felt that students and teachers relationships should be built and repaired in order to gain respect. Many students felt that there is a disconnect between teachers and students and their community and this often causes misunderstandings. True accountability should be practiced by teachers and be the role model for students. Parent involvement on campus is a high need according to students and a huge culture shift is needed to take place in all Oakland high schools but currently 13 schools do not have the appropriate or needed tools/resources to start this shift. Community improvement was also seen as key toward a greater sense of safety stating that it takes an entire community to make a safe environment for students. Students also said that safety issues at school included fights, abductions, shootings, gun violence, sexual harassment, poor security system and disrespectful teachers. Questions that came up included: Why is restorative justice not in every high school? What does it takes to be an SSO and what is their role, exactly? A few recommendations to improve safety were: to train culture keepers, longer training for securities, proactive working security, a more sophisticated requirement for security, adult presence and students should help with the hiring process of the SSO's.

Students said that quality teaching should focus on teachers and how they interact with students and appreciate students. Students had plenty to say about their idea teachers: a person that take the time to learn a student's personality and who can communicate and listen to students, teachers who can challenge students while being patient and who can make teaching exciting, teachers that can be role models for students and not look down on students and judge

them on race or past events, and more diverse and local teachers. A few questions that came up were: Who is responsible to shift the culture of the classroom? What does quality teaching look like and how could it be even more improved? What was more important to teacher's quality teaching or student success? Recommendations included the building of respect between teachers and students, students are on hiring board of teachers, have the good teachers train the new or bad teachers, more professional development for teachers, good teachers creating videos of their teaching to be shared across the district, train culture keepers, and greater emphasis on confidentiality among teachers. Additional descriptions of an ideal teacher was also expressed as a teacher who is experienced, has no attitude, honest, makes sure every student gets the material, fun, creative, fair, patient, understanding, who can joke, passionate, listens, determined, with same origins, properly trained, entertaining, and looks for student opportunities.

Students said that student support meant support from teachers, peers and adults. When asked how students defined student support as students mentioned peer to peer help, students are able to relate to teachers and teachers being able to relate to students. Students also mentioned having poor experiences in the classroom with teachers who were part of new teaching programs to help pay off student loans. Support in the beginning of school, being comfortable when going to school, recognition from adults on campus as a youth who goes through a lot and who needs help/support and support from community. Adults on campus should also be aware of outside factors that affect youth productivity in school. Youth have family problems, other commitments like jobs and school takes up time. Stress and family obligations are also other factors. Questions included: what is the process for hiring and firing teachers? How can students give feedback to teachers without getting punished? How can students get involved in hiring teachers? How to get counselors at school? Some of the recommendations students had include: Recruit local teachers specifically from Oakland; full access to surrounding resources YMCA; library; pool hire counselors; peer coaches somewhat of a mentor and more opportunities like AP classes, and youth center at all schools.

Individual high school also did school reports at the youth summit in which they reported what was going on at their schools. Fremont delegates reported that improvements seen on campus were better teachers who were culturally diverse and that can relate to the community. The presence of new books that are interesting because students are able to relate to them and improved cafeteria food. Delegates are currently working on building a stronger and improved communication with adults on campus to raise awareness on issues around school. Delegate from Oakland high school reported that issues at their school include textbooks that are in poor conditions and dirty bathrooms. Leadership at Oakland high is currently collaborating with CFY to work with the issue of discipline. Delegates are working with adults conducting surveys and collecting data to address issues. Delegates from Dewey said that some improvements include the cafeteria food and YAT. Leadership is currently planning future fundraisers. Upcoming events include prom and graduation.

On May 28th ACC had their last middle school meeting at the Family Schools and Community Partnerships office. Frick, Westlake and CCPA attended the meeting. During this meeting delegates presented their project and also got to ask questions to a high school panel on the transition to high school. Delegates from Frick informed that they had done a great job educating peers about bullying and raised awareness about by posters, events, festivals and surveys. Concerns on campus are the recruitment of students to leadership, bullying, and events

on campus. Upcoming events include a bake sale, sports festival and end of the year party. Delegates from informed that leadership students are more responsible and there is more socialization amongst students. These were due to an establishment of a leadership class and the eagle nest. A remaining concern is the disrespect from students to teachers and this is being addressed by building a stronger relationship. Upcoming events include dinner dance and promotion. Delegates from CCPA informed that some improvements were the teachers, grades and attendance. A remaining concern is the school lunch.